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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

A Publication of The Nature Conservancy

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Volume 13, Number 1 Spring 1963

W. Harley Webster, Editor

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COVER: Spring 1963 (Photo by Daniel Smiley). Thompson Pond, New York, one of three small lakes lying in a depression in a glacial gravel deposit, is over half a mile long and slightly over a quarter mile wide. It is located in Northeastern Dutchess County, and is considered to be one of the best locations for water birds in the Hudson Valley region. Observations at the Pond are a basic element in "The Birds of Dutchess County, New York" by Ludlow Griscom, a well known publication on the birds of a single county in this country.

The Editor solicits the gift of articles, notes, photographs, and sketches on the various aspects of The Nature Conservancy. If possible, articles should be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Photographs or negatives should have full captions and necessary credits attached. All photographs, negatives and articles will be returned if desired.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE
"Dangers of Encroachment"

While all of us rejoice in the onward sweep of land preservation, we also need to be concerned about the dangers of encroachment that are now threatening some areas. These stern realities call for public reaction if we are to protect fully those areas entrusted to us.

The most serious threat in the East is from the construction of Federal Interstate Highway 87 along an east route and cutting into the Butler Memorial Sanctuary near Bedford in Westchester County, New York. The project committee, the villages of Bedford and Mount Kisco, the Westchester County Planning Board, and the New York State Conservation Department have firmly recommended against use of the Butler Sanctuary route, and that a way known as the Westerly Route should be adopted. The Federal Bureau of Roads, going on the basis that the Butler Sanctuary route will be slightly shorter and cheaper, has rejected the local proposals.

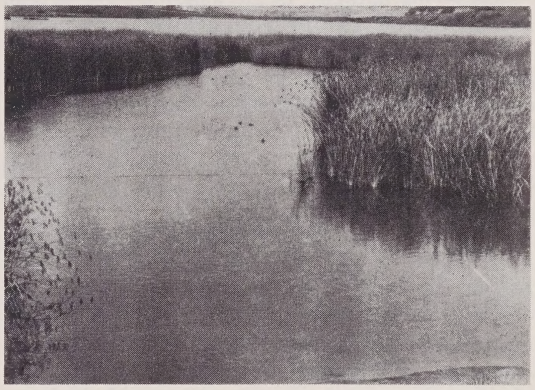
We have pointed out that the Federal Bureau's selection is not only detrimental to the Butler Sanctuary, but that it cuts between our preserve and the Westmoreland Sanctuary which now adjoins it on the east. Furthermore, plans were under way for the development of a complex of public and private preserves of about 2,000 acres. If realized, this would have been the largest and finest natural area preserve in close proximity to New York City.

These possibilities mean little to those who seem interested only in faster automotive travel.

The Butler Sanctuary will not be completely destroyed, but its usefulness will be affected and the dream of open space for those who cannot or do not wish to race over highways to formerly remote places will be shattered. The ruthlessness of this new "convenience" in our culture is highlighted here, where not only the views of the conservationists as such, but the local residents and the Conservation Department of the New York State government have been pushed aside. All of us need to read, study, and then exercise our citizens' responsibilities in the current road construction program.

Butler Sanctuary, N. Y.

Far across the country at Oceanside and Carlsbad, California, a different threat has developed. Buena Vista Lagoon in California, just above the Mexican border, is regarded as one of the last and best waterfowl resting places on the southern end of the Pacific Flyway. About half of the area has been held by The Nature Conservancy for several years. Now builders propose to fill in most of the parts still privately owned for a housing development. Members of the Southern California Chapter, Members of the Buena Vista Association, and the Western Regional Director have worked very earnestly to oppose changes in zoning ordinances that would permit this development.



Buena Vista Lagoon, Calif.

The whole area should certainly be made into a waterfowl refuge. It has been suggested that since it is within or close to both Oceanside and Carlsbad, it ought to become a community park and waterfowl refuge. This is doubtless the wisest use that could be made of the area and would ultimately prove of the highest value to the taxpayers and sports enthusiasts as well as an outdoor nature laboratory. It is regretted that both federal and private agencies concerned directly with waterfowl preservation have been indifferent to the potential of the situation.

Your officers and chapter concerned have done their best, but they need the support of the membership.

We commend Mayor Erwin Sklar of Oceanside, California, for his sympathetic interest. We hope that the Bureau of Wildlife and Sports Fisheries will join us in the effort to maintain a wildlife refuge before it is too late.

---W.S.B.---

THE ASSUMPTION THAT MAN MUST DESTROY NATURE IN ORDER TO "CONQUER" IT

In the 19th century this assumption was held as a matter of course by nearly all Americans. "Conquering nature" usually meant destroying nature -- levelling the forests, gutting the land for minerals, plowing up the soil in such a way that it could be blown away by the winds, wastefully stripping our resources and obliterating every trace of the natural landscape. Although nowadays we all consider ourselves conservationists, too often we indulge in this same fallacious assumption. Too often our plans for development, particularly in suburban areas, are still based on the assumption that nature must be obliterated. The symbols of our relation to the land are the bulldozer and the steam shovel.

Implicit in this 19th century philosophy of "conquering nature" is the assumption that man is something separate from nature.

We are learning increasingly nowadays from psychology and biology that man is part of nature. His roots are in the natural world and he separates himself from it at his peril. The unnatural environment of our cities and the pace of modern life have accelerated the "civilized" diseases so familiar to us all. Physicians increasingly urge patients caught up in the urban "rat race" to get more relaxation. For many people the best kind of refreshment and renewal comes among trees and fields, along uncrowded seashores, or high on mountain streams. We have in many respects become a Nation of vacation seekers in search of temporary surcease from the abnormal strains of a fast-moving society. Above all, modern man, perplexed and beleaguered in mind and body, needs the wholeness and serenity that come from leisurely association with natural surroundings, particularly with nature in its pure, unadulterated state - - true wilderness.

-- From Address by

Secretary of the Interior STEWART L. UDALL,

at the 8th Biennial Wilderness Conference, San Francisco, March 9, 1963 --

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Membership of The Nature Conservancy will be held on August 24th at 2:30 p.m., at Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut.

Elting Arnold, Secretary

OUR SECRETARY HONORED BY FORTUNE MAGAZINE

The importance to The Nature Conservancy of the portfolio entitled "Businessmen Who Love the Land" appearing in the March issue of FORTUNE Magazine is beyond question.

The concept of land preservation as good business has been most clearly defined, and the editors saw fit to feature as an example of the businessman in land preservation, ELTING ARNOLD, Secretary of The Nature Conservancy.

U. S. industrialists have traditionally been cast as the villains in the nation's early conservation battles, and a good many of them played the role convincingly. But if the century-long battle to preserve the nation's resources, wildlife, and natural beauty is on the way to being won, it is because other determined businessmen have fought on the side of reform -- and are still fighting.

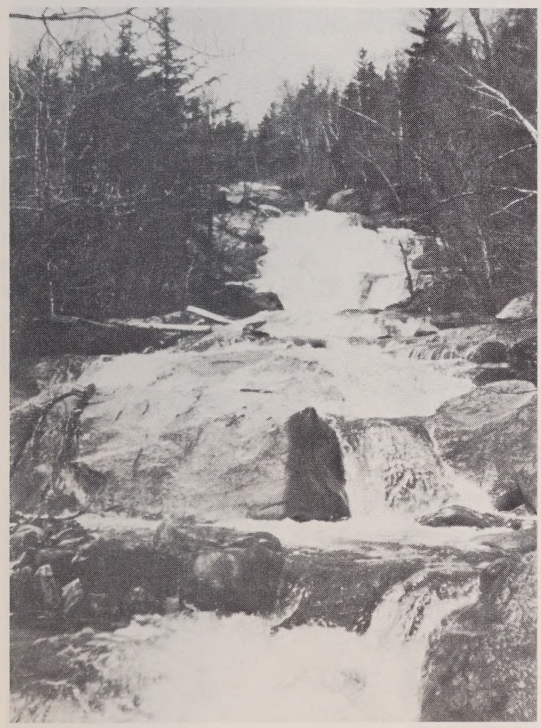
"Elting Arnold, General Counsel of the Inter-American Development Bank, describes most modern-day business conservationists when he says: 'I am neither a philanthropist nor a solitary hero.' As Secretary of The Nature Conservancy, he is responsible for the complex, anonymous, unpaid paper work that is the hidden structure of conservation. He has played a vital role in The Conservancy's loan fund, which provides temporary financial backing for local groups engaged in fund-raising campaigns to preserve natural areas. Arnold has been instrumental in the preservation of the Thompson Pond Area in the Hudson River Valley, New York, and Battle Creek Cypress Swamp in Maryland." (Quoted from FORTUNE MAGAZINE, March 1963)

We are grateful to Mr. Henry R. Luce, Editor-in-Chief of FORTUNE MAGAZINE, to Mr. Don Holden, and to all members of their staff who planned and presented the Portfolio.

STEP FALLS, MAINE

Step Falls on Wight Brook, about a half mile from where the highway crosses the brook, rises on the east side of Baldpate Mountain, locally known as Saddleback Mountain, on the east side of Grafton Notch. In the last two miles it drops over 1,000 feet in elevation. Step Falls is a series of cascades where the brook drops from the high land in back of Lighting Ledge to the Bear River Valley floor, a drop of 200 feet in a distance of 800 feet.

While Wight Brook is a typical mountain brook of the Maine Woods, its attraction is not only in its cascades and companion pools forming the steps, but the pegmatite granite ledges over which it flows have been worn smooth by the large amount of erosive material, varying from sand to boulders weighing several tons, that over the life of the brook have been carried down the falls during the spring runoff of the melting snow in the mountains. The polished granite is free of vegetation and even moss for widths of from 50 to 100 feet.



In 1909 Emily Stuart Kellogg acquired the property and built a Nature Camp consisting of a main lodge and several cottages, featuring Step Falls as one of the most beautiful natural areas in the northwestern part of Maine.

The main lodge burned after several years and the property was repurchased by the Wight family, the camp building being sold, but the land rights being kept by the Wights. Thus, for over 50 years the falls were closed to the public to protect the privacy of the camps.

When the Study Area Committee of the Maine Chapter visited Step Falls in 1960, the need to preserve the falls for the public was recognized. The owner, Mr. Fred Wight was in his late 80's and he appreciated this need. Access to the falls had been by a private road past the camps. It was suggested that a trail following the brook from the road 300 yeards north of Mr. Wight's home would avoid the camps and assure the privacy of both the camp owners and of users of the proposed trail.

On this basis the land was acquired, ten rods or 165 feet on each side of the brook from the highway to the top of the falls, a distance of over one half mile.

A parking area adjacent to the highway has been made, a trail along the brook to the falls has been cleared and appropriate signs erected. During the summer of 1962 the falls have been visited by several hundred people.

BERRY WOODS, IOWA

Mr. Don L. Berry of Indianola, Iowa, learned of the preservation activities of the Conservancy from a friend of his who was a Nature Conservancy member. After a visit to Berry Woods by Dr. J. M. Aikman and Bruce Dowling, the area was recommended as worthy of preservation. The local management committee for the project includes staff members of Simpson College who use the area.

The Woods are located in Warren County, Iowa, 13 miles south of Des Moines, and consist of deciduous mixed woodland, mainly white oak, hickory and red oak with a variety of other tree species and rich wildflower display. This area has been uncut commercially for over 90 years, and some of the larger trees are 150 to 250 years old.

CRANESVILLE SWAMP, ,
West Virginia - Maryland

The Cranesville Swamp Nature Sanctuary was established on October 13, 1960, when approximately 259 acres of the swamp area were purchased by the Nature Conservancy. Cranesville Swamp is located nine miles north of Terra Alta, West Virginia, and it straddles the State line, lying in Preston County, West Virginia and in Garrett County, Maryland. The preserved area of the swamp occupies 250.86 acres in West Virginia and 8.31 acres in Maryland.

The local committee that arranged for the purchase of Cranesville Swamp is made up of members of the staff of West Virginia University; Dr. Earl L. Core, Chairman of the Department of Biology, directed the activities of the committee, which in addition to Dr. Core, included Dr. Willem A. van Eck of the Department of Agronomy and Genetics and Roland L. Guthrie, who has direction of the West Virginia University Aboretum. A loan of approximately $3,300 from a revolving fund of The Nature Conservancy was made to the committee. After successful negotiations with the land owner and the actual purchase of the property, the West Virginia Committee has been actively engaged in obtaining funds for repaying the loan. Through donations by individuals and organizations the incurred debt has been reduced to less than $300.

Preserves such as Cranesville Swamp have great value, for they are literally living museums. Their value is of exactly the same sort as the value inherent in any museum but possibly even greater, for they preserve the living world itself. Specific values of such areas are numerous. Basic scientific research in many fields of biology is dependent on the existence of natural areas. This includes such fields as ecology and taxonomy. Even the laboratory branches of biology, such as physiology and genetics, find natural areas of value. Scientists need natural tracts as check-areas or experimental controls in land-use research by which to gauge the effects of farming, forestry, and other uses of the land. These areas serve as sanctuaries for rare species that might face extinction. The educational and esthetic values of such preserves will be inestimable in the future, especially when urbanization and complete utilization of the land will make such areas rarities.

The preservation of Cranesville Swamp assures the continued existence of a habitat in which many of the species of plants and animals have northern affinities. Several species found here exist as relict colonies that have been able to persist far south of their principal range. These are species which were common in our region during the Pleistocene Epoch. The outstanding example of this is the Eastern Larch of Tamarack, Larix laricina (Du Roi) K. Koch, which finds its southernmost known station in Cranesville Swamp.

COTTON HOLLOW, CONNECTICUT

This wooded ravine is located near Glastonbury, Connecticut. Roaring Brook runs through the property, which consists of hemlocks, maples and beeches predominant in climax forests.

Due to the efforts of the Glastonbury Branch Chapter, Miss Amy Pratt made a gift of land in Cotton Hollow in 1960, on the condition that an additional acreage would be acquired for this preserve. The main part of the gorge was acquired by a group of local citizens a number of years ago, and although some members wanted it developed for active recreation and others wanted it preserved in its natural state substantial progress is being made to keep it in its natural state.

Cotton Hollow, Connecticut

THE BLANCHE HAMILTON WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, CALIFORNIA

Back in October of 1961 there appeared an article in the Wall Street Journal concerning The Nature Conservancy, and as a result of that publicity we received a letter from Mr. J. F. Hamilton of Los Angeles, California, advising the Conservancy that he had 40 acres of scenic land in the Devil's Punchbowl area of Los Angeles County which he had long desired to make into a wildlife refuge.

This is one of the most rugged and picturesque areas in Southern California situated on the San Andreas Fault and perhaps was formed by some major upheaval. It is a dramatic example of such forces at work.

Mr. Hamilton carefully guarded the natural area for a number of years, the only change being a gentle hand to stabilize the water so that wildlife can live in the area the year around. This area is located in an almost inaccessible canyon on the north slope of the San Gabriel Mountains at about the 4,500 foot level, adjoining the Angeles National Forest on the south, and a primitive access trail is its only connection to the outside world. Its biotic communities include, piñon, juniper and yucca.

The Devil's Punchbowl project was approved by the Board of Governors, upon recommendation of the Southern California Chapter, by appropriate resolution on September 21, 1962, and a gift of the property has been gratefully accepted by The Nature Conservancy from Mr. Hamilton.

On February 2, 1962, at the meeting of the Executive Committee the following resolution was adopted:

> WHEREAS, the Board of Governors has authorized the acceptance from Mr. James F. Hamilton of the donation of 40 acres located in the Punch Bowl area between the Mojave Desert and San Gabriel Mountains of Southern California as a Nature Conservancy preserve, and
>
> WHEREAS, members of the Board are well aware that this represents control of a strategic area adjoining and protecting the Angeles National Forest, and
>
> WHEREAS, this gift provides the basis for the establishment of a much larger natural area than the 40 acres itself and, because of the water available, an important wildlife refuge,
>
> NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the deep gratitude of The Nature Conservancy is extended to Mr. Hamilton for his generosity and foresight. This preserve shall henceforth be known as The Blanche Hamilton Wildlife Sanctuary.

"THE NEW EXPLORATION"

by Benton MacKaye

We in The Nature Conservancy frequently refer to the pioneering effort of our type of natural area preservation. We might well figuratively bow to Benton MacKaye as one of the early advocates of nature preserves.

The recent republication of this volume in a paperback edition (selling for $1.75 - University of Illinois Press) again makes available this important book, which was first produced by Harcourt Brace in 1928. The fact that its conservation message is still valid and is currently even more applicable in this changing world is significant.

Benton MacKaye is best known to outdoor people as the originator of the Appalachian Trail and as a co-founder of The Wilderness Society. Professionally he was a forester, serving under Gifford Pinchot in the early part of this century, and as a regional land use planner.

This book gives a good summary of the history of man's relationship to the land on this continent. "The New Exploration" is the name given his concept of the opportunity for regional planning to meet the outflow of what he calls the "Metropolitan wilderness" into the country. Not only is a strong case made for land use planning on a regional basis, but an urgent plea is made for "open ways". He assumed that these would probably be publicly owned and would

often follow ridge crest lines. His concept of natural areas with limited and controlled use was quite parallel to ours. He recognized the aesthetic and spiritual values of such areas.

Such a brief comment as this cannot do the book justice. In the introduction, Lewis Mumford compares it to the philosophical writing of Thoreau. MacKaye's style and the technical nature of the subject make somewhat difficult reading, but it is a worthwhile book for those seriously involved in natural area preservation.

-- Daniel Smiley --

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE . . . . . .

Available from the national office is Information Bulletin No. 34, entitled - "Signs, Notices and Markers for Natural Areas".

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

August 23, 1963
New London, Connecticut

The Board of Governors has accepted the invitation of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to hold the annual meeting in Connecticut this year.

Present plans call for the annual meeting to be held on Friday, Saturday and part of Sunday, August 23rd, 24th and 25th. Connecticut College, located in New London, has indicated willingness to make its facilities available to the Conservancy.

On Friday, August 23rd, for those who arrive in time, there is planned a five or six hour boat trip into Long Island Sound. The boat trip, we expect, will start at New London in the Thames River and include stops at such places as the Marine Research Laboratory of the University of Connecticut, located on the Mystic River in the Village of Noank, which conducts studies of marine biology and related subjects; the Barn Island Wildlife Refuge Area in the Town of Stonington, which is owned and operated by the State of Connecticut Board of Fisheries and Game; the Pequotsepos Wildlife Sanctuary, which is a wildlife sanctuary in the Town of Stonington completely privately supported and controlled by persons interested in conservation; and probably will include the opportunity for a visit at the Mystic Seaport, the nationally known project of the Marine Historical Association on the Mystic River, where are collected many items of marine historical interest and value.

The Connecticut Chapter is looking forward to having an interesting, educational and enjoyable Annual Meeting and extends to all the members of The Nature Conservancy and others interested in conservation a warm welcome to attend and perhaps gather a bit of flavor of the Nutmeg State.

-- Richard M. Bowers, Chairman
of the Connecticut Chapter --

Barn Island, Wildlife Refuge Area, Stonington, Conn. (Courtesy of Connecticut State Board of Fisheries and Game)

"RANCHO MONTANA DE ORO", CALIFORNIA

The Rancho Montana property is an exceptionally beautiful area north of Santa Barbara and consists of some 4,000 acres of shoreline property. It has the very highest priority, in the opinion of the Division of Beaches and Parks of the State of California, for acquisition. It is currently owned by Rancho Montana de Oro, Inc., a corporation. There is no current authorization of funds for its purchase by the State. However, the Conservancy has been in continual negotiations with the owners of the property for some months and so far has been able to keep the property off the market.

Following conversations with the attorney for the corporation which is the owner, an agreement has been worked out under which the Conservancy agreed to lend the owner the sum of $100,000.00 and in return would receive a promissory note in this amount secured by a second deed of trust on the entire property.

The Conservancy also received the covenant of the owner not to sell or negotiate for the sale of the property for six months and the further covenant that, if a bill were introduced in the State Legislature looking towards the acquitition of the property as a State Park, an additional period of five months would be given during which the owner would not sell to any person or entity without giving the Conservancy the right to purchase the property upon the same terms and conditions.

The agreement provides that the sum of $50,000.00 would be loaned at the outset and that further amounts, up to an additional $50,000.00 would be loaned by the Conservancy, upon a 30-day notice by the owner that the funds were required. The promissory notes for the first $50,000.00 and any subsequent sums are and would be in the form of three-year promissory notes at 5% interest, the principal and interest to be paid upon maturity of the notes three years from the making thereof. These notes are to be secured by deeds of trust upon all of the property, which has a current market value of some $1,700,000.00. The first $50,000.00 loan has been made by the Conservancy. The only existing deeds of trust as of this date are a first deed of trust in the amount of some $120,000.00 and a second deed of trust securing the first loan by the Conservancy in the amount of $50,000.00.

The procedure here would be that in subsequent loans under the agreement a deed of trust would be executed by the owner and a title insurance policy would be issued insuring the new lien of new lendor's deed of trust to be free and clear of any and all liens except for the $120,000.00 deed of trust and the Nature Conservancy's $50,000.00 deed of trust.

JOHN S. APPERSON

Naturalist, Conservationist, Philanthropist

On February 1, 1963 we noted with deep regret the passing of John S. Apperson. Known to many as "Appey" his name shall ever be linked with those who fought for the preservation of natural areas.

Mr. Apperson was an honorary member of The Nature Conservancy and was the donor of Dome Island in Lake George, New York. Almost to the last day of his earthly existence, John worked and planned conservation. He was founder and president of the Forest Preserve Association. Conservation was almost a religion with him, and because of his untiring efforts, we have such areas as Tongue Mountain on Lake George as a State Forest Preserve.

In an article appearing in the Albany, N. Y. Sunday Times-Union, January 29, 1961, the headline was as follows:

"John Apperson Never Gives Up -- He Set Stage for Better Conservation."

Barnett Fowler, the Times-Union City Editor said that years ago, while swimming in a small, sand-bottomed cover in Northwest Bay, Lake George, he was hailed by a gentleman, who was trying his best to prevent a conked-out inboard from drifting against the nearby shore.

It was a simple matter to swim out and guide the craft into the cove and once done it was a delightful session he had with the owner and pilot, Mr. Apperson, a man who at that time was literally one of the most sought after individuals in outdoor circles. He was once termed by a secretary to Governor Lehman as the "biggest thorn in the side of the Governor's office." This novel and flattering title was bestowed upon him because of his ceaseless efforts to perpetuate the "forever wild" clause in the state constitution; his efforts in fighting for the state's right to regulate the level of Lake George and his never ending efforts to force the state into buying land and yet more land for public use.

It wasn't that the state was entirely unwilling. It was just that everytime it turned its collective head, there was "Appey" with a thousand suggestions.

The day Mr. Fowler met him so very unexpectedly Appey was moving one jump ahead of a state legislative committee, which had summoned him to appear before it in Albany, along with all of his records on the water level regulation question, a case which involved a mill and a dam at the lake's outlet.

This legal document, Apperson told Fowler with a chuckle, was imposing, fine and proper in all respects save one. It had no date.

"Then you actually don't know when to appear," Fowler said.

"That, my friend is 100% correct," he replied.

Actually, Apperson was taking no chances; with a non-dated document in his pocket, he was cruising the lake, spending the days and nights on it and at friends' camps one jump ahead of servers armed with a corrected call to Albany. His home in Schenectady was staked out and searchers were moving over the lake in such numbers that he didn't dare stop off at his own camp on the west side.

"I do not intend," he declared, "to disclose all my arguments in this question in Albany before I have a chance to show them in court."

The legislative committee never did catch up with Apperson and he used his records to good effect. Today an eagle eye is kept on the lake's level and much of this is due to this man

and the band of stalwarts he rallied to his cause. While some could say they did not approve entirely of his directness, none could ever doubt his sincerity of purpose.

Many other stories could be told of John Apperson, and they will be re-told. We have no doubt whatsoever that John Apperson will become a legend in our time. He never gave up.

LAND PRESERVATION CAN MOVE AHEAD

Since September 1, three foundations have granted a total of $425,000.00 with an additional $25,000.00 pledged to the revolving loan fund of The Nature Conservancy. Actually it is under the official heading of "Matching and Loan Fund" but the intent of the donors was clearly that the money be used for loan purposes. This is a long step forward from December when we were hesitant to encourage project committees to move ahead on numerous excellent land acquisitions simply because we could not assure them of adequate financial assistance to hold the land until local funds could be raised. Today all of these are being moved ahead as rapidly as other factors than finance permit. Other small projects are being studied.

We are now in a position to consider any project where there is a committee of interested citizens and where the land itself is approved by the Project Review Committee of The Nature Conservancy. This is indeed progress.

The serious problem is funds for current operations.

As we come to the end of the third quarter of the year, only $83,000.00 of our needed $130,000.00 has been raised. This is all the more serious when it is known that $45,000.00 of that amount came from two major donors. To date the Governors are nearest their goal of $25,000.00 with $17,400.00 pledged or contributed. Membership and mail solicitation has fallen far behind with only $13,000.00 of the $30,000.00 raised. Several chapters have delayed their membership renewal mailing. This will improve somewhat as the Spring membership drive goes into high gear, but somehow we are just not finding people who will join and contribute to the support of the nationwide effort.

Here are some things people have done to help:

1. One member has asked for a quantity of literature and has sent it to friends with a letter of his own. This has proven to be a very effective way of bringing in new members.

2. Several persons giving lectures have asked that their honorarium be sent to The Nature Conservancy.

3. Sale of garden produce and a 'white elephant' sale have been staged for the benefit of 'National Operations'.

We can still show better than $5.00 worth of land preserved for every dollar that has been contributed. The Nature Conservancy offers an opportunity to turn dollars into natural area preservation.

Fire Island National Seashore Bill

On February 11th, Representative John V. Lindsay of New York reintroduced his bill to establish a Fire Island National Seashore. The measure (H. R. 3693) has received widespread support from residents of Fire Island and from conservationists throughout the country, and is for the purpose of setting aside portions of Fire Island for preservation in a natural state.

Congressman Lindsay has expressed the hope that the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs will give full and prompt consideration to his proposal.

CHAPTER NEWS

Formation of New Chapters

New chapters in NEW HAMPSHIRE and IOWA are currently in the process of formation. In each case, preliminary work has been completed and approved by the Board of Governors.

The New Hampshire membership, under the temporary chairmanship of Mr. Alexander Lincoln of Meredith, N. H., is considering plans for a membership meeting in the very near future.

In Iowa, under the chairmanship of Dr. John M. Aikman, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology of Iowa State University, an organizational meeting has been scheduled for April 19 of the Iowa Academy of Sciences.

It is hoped that the next issue of the NEWS will carry the announcement that these chapters are in business!

Ohio Chapter

Kimball Woods: Nature Conservancy has received the deed to an additional 4-1/2 acres adjoining Kimball Woods. Again, it is the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Carl R. Kimball of Madison, and will be used by Kent State University as a study area.

Cedar Fork: Ohio Nature Conservancy may take much credit for the recent acquisition by the Ohio Archaeological & Historical Society of 90 acres near Peebles. Principal research on Cedar Fork, now the Edwin H. Davis Memorial, was done by Dr. Lucy Braun and Gardner Griffin,

who was Ohio Nature Conservancy's first vice chairman. The area is a dolomite gorge with virgin prairie patches on the upland, rare flora, and a significant stand of mature arbor vitae.

Mentor Marsh: The State of Ohio has accepted surface rights to some 320 acres of land in the marsh, offered to them two years ago by the Morton Salt Company, with the proviso that the land remain in its natural state. Lying adjacent to Headlands Beach State Park, the area will be administered by the Ohio Division of Parks. Negotiations are continuing with other landowners, and we are confident that other transfers will materialize in the near future.

Western New York Chapter

The following resolution was adopted at the March 9th meeting:

"Whereas the Board of Trustees of The Nature Conservancy, Inc., Western New York Chapter, learns with very deep regret of the sudden and untimely death on Wednesday, February 20, 1963, of K. Axel Heilborn, who was one of the chapter's founders and its first chairman,

And whereas his broad experience, good judgment and wise counsel proved most valuable to the founding of the chapter: he was one of the club's most active workers, his devotion to conservation being an inspiration to all. His zeal and unbounding enthusiasm were largely responsible for success in the campaign to establish Moss Lake Sanctuary.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees, on behalf of the entire membership, gratefully acknowledges and records its appreciation of him and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be sent to Mr. Heilborn's family as a testimonial of our appreciation for his fine work in this organization and as an expression of our sorrow at the loss of a close friend."

Michigan Natural Area

At its meeting of February 15th, the Michigan Natural Area chairman reported that the Barber (Vermontville) Woods has extensive lumbering now going on in the southwest corner of the tract. The 50-acre tract in the northeast corner will remain for some time, and would be available at about $1,000.00 per acre. The Nature Conservancy would be willing to lend $25,000.00 to initiate a project here, and another attempt is being made to secure funds through the legislature.

BESS REED PEACOCK . . . . .

The NEWS learned with deep regret, just before publication time, that Mrs. Bess Reed Peacock of Los Angeles, California, passed away during the Winter. Mrs. Peacock, a member from 1950, and a Life Member since 1959, was a high school botany teacher, with a deep love of the land, and she generously supported the Northern California Coast Range Preserve.

Eastern New York Chapter

Lisha Kill: This is a project involving an important stream valley on the outskirts of Schenectady. The project has been approved by the Eastern New York Chapter and a six months' option on a key 80-acre parcel in the area has been secured. The Lisha Kill Project Committee is already in operation. Not only is the area a thrilling acquisition, but the enthusiasm and drive of new co-workers is exhilirating. (Note: An authorizing resolution was adopted by the Executive Committee of The Nature Conservancy at their Washington, D. C. meeting on February 2, 1963.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. Philip L. Carret
Mrs. Raymond F. Evans
Mrs. William C. Knox
Dr. H. E. Schoen
Mr. David Swetland
Miss Lisa von Borowsky
Dr. Nathaniel R. Whitney, Jr.

Total Life Members to Date: 242

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FROM THE ADMINISTRATORS OF THE BUTLER SANCTUARY

The 250 acre Butler Sanctuary lies within 30 miles of New York City. It is a preserve endowed with great natural and unspoiled beauty, with a varied habitat of mature hardwoods, swamps, marshes, open fields, pine groves, streams and rock out-croppings. The Sanctuary, together with the immediately adjacent 105 acre Westmoreland Sanctuary and 300 acre Byram Lake Reservoir, all valued substantially in excess of $1,000,000.00, is the nucleus of an area which, if left undisturbed, could expand to a 2000 acre conservation and recreation preserve through the generous donation of large additional tracts by public-spirited neighbors. The Nature Conservancy feels rightly that because of its beauty, location and potential, the Butler Sanctuary is one of the Conservancy's most valuable holdings. Dr. Harold G. Wilm, Conservation Commissioner of New York, said recently, "The existence of such relatively large primitive tracts so close to New York City impressed me as a significant conservation asset to the people of the area and the state."

In January of 1963, the N. Y. Department of Public Works recommended, and the United States Commerce Department's Federal Bureau of Roads approved the route of Interstate Highway 87 through the Butler Sanctuary, even though satisfactory alternative proposals were available. Using a 300 foot average right-of-way, the superhighway would smash through the middle of Butler's 30 acre swamp and traverse the valley floor, exposing more than 50% of the Butler acreage and trails to the chaos of construction and use. The Federal Bureau of Public Roads estimates that within several years 24,000 vehicles daily will use the four lanes of fenced concrete roadway.

Even though Dr. Wilm concluded that "a super-highway traversing the Butler and Westmoreland Sanctuaries would destroy a large part of the value of such lands and, therefore, would be a real loss of an important natural resource," Secretary of Commerce Luther C. Hodges wrote the Butler Sanctuary Administrators on March 8, 1963 attempting to justify the route selected and used the following words, "The highway will be developed with parkway characteristics so that it will present a very pleasing appearance blending with the natural terrain."

The above statement needs no comment. It is distressing to believe that this attitude can prevail today, particularly in a situation when 16,000,000 people in the Metropolitan New York region are begging for preservation of just a little of their remaining heritage of open space and natural beauty. One can only conclude that Secretary Hodges is grossly misinformed, and one can only hope that Secretary Hodges and his associates will respond to reasoned persuasion.

We would like to have you write, as taxpayers and conservationists, protesting this wanton destruction by our road builders and rejecting the contention that the road damage would not be significant. Your letters should be sent to those elected and public officials who have a say in the allocations of funds for construction of the Interstate Highway program, including President Kennedy, Members of Congress and Secretary Hodges.

We would appreciate copies of your letters. For additional information, please contact the administrators. Thank you.

--The Administrators of the Butler Sanctuary

R.D. 2, P.O. Box 345 Mt. Kisco, New York --